

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim 31 has been rejected under 35 USC 102 (b) as being anticipated by Green. This claim has been cancelled.

Claim 32 has been rejected under 35 USC 102 (b) as being anticipated by Kobler, et al. This claim has been cancelled.

Claim 33 has been rejected under 35 USC 102 (b) as being anticipated by Andis '616. The examiner has made note that the upper portion of the plate, the portion with the holes, is the back plate.

The Andis '616 device has a blade carrier 26 for attachment under the cutting blade using screws. The instant invention for the comb element 32 as best viewed in Figure 24 has a groove notch formed in the comb teeth as claimed in claim 33 for engagement with a front edge of a plurality of upper teeth of a cutting head. The Andis '616 art does not anticipate any such method of comb attachment. It appears to teach away from such a clip on attachment method since it uses a screw fastening method. For all of these reasons it is believed the instant invention claim 33 is distinguished from Andis '616.

Claim 34 has been rejected under 35 USC 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Andis '616. The examiner has made note that the coating of teeth is old in the art and absent a showing of criticality the modification appears obvious. This claim is now dependent on what is believed to be an allowable base claim and therefore should be allowed.

Claim 35 has been found allowable.

It is believed with the clarifying amendments that the uniqueness of the instant invention is not disclosed in the cited art. Applicant believes that the unique solution although being simple in its implementation was not obvious to those involved in the art of clipper blade comb design.

Accordingly it is believed that the rejections under 35 USC Section 102 (b) and 103 (a)

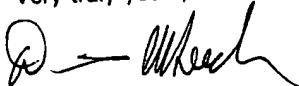
have been overcome by canceling and amending of the claims and the remarks, and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the cause for rejections and objections is requested. Allowance of claims 33 through 35 is earnestly solicited.

No additional fee for claims is seen to be required.

If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,



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DWB/ab